

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

IO-12 RSR-01 /114 W

----- 066160

R 301540 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7795

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINR, PO

SUBJ: PROMINENT OPPOSITIONIST PRIEST ARRESTED

1. REV. MARIO PAIS DE OLIVEIRA, WELL- KNOWN GOVERN-
MENT CRITIC WHO IS PASTOR OF CATHOLIC PARISH AT
MACIERA DA LIXA, NEAR OPORTO, WAS ARRESTED BY SECURITY
POLICE MARCH 21 AND IS NOW IN CAXIAS PRISON. AMCON
OPORTO HAS LEARNED OLIVEIRA HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED SEE
VISITORS BUT THAT FRIENDS HAVE DELIVERED PERSONAL
EFFECTS TO PRISON.

2. MARIO PAIS DE OLIVEIRA IS KNOWN AS CRITIC OF GOP
POLICIES IN AFRICA AND IN FIELD OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. IN
1971 HE WAS ARRESTED AND TRIED FOR " SUBVERSION" FOR
HAVING SUGGESTED TO A SOLDIER THAT HE REFUSE TO FIGHT
IN AFRICA. DEFENDED ENERGETICALLY BY JOSE DA SILVA,
A LAWYER WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE " LIBERAL WING."
OLIVEIRA WAS ACQUITTED (SEE OPORTO A-17 OF AUGUST 13,
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1971.) AMCONSUL OPORTO REPORTED EARLY IN 1973 THAT OLIVEIRA WAS BACK AT HIS OLD STAND, USING THE PULPIT TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY ITS OVERSEAS POLICIES. HIS " WORLD PEACE DAY" (JANUARY 1) SERMON REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED GOP POLICIES IN AFRICA AND WAS AMBIGUOUS ON THEN RECENT " BOMBINGS" (DETONATIONS OF PAMPHLET CANNISTERS) IN LISBON.

3. ONLY PUBLIC MENTION OF OLIVEIRA AFFAIR WAS IN MARCH 26 EDITION OF OPPOSITIONIST DAILY DIARIO DE LISBOA. LISBOA' S UNOBTRUSIVE BACK- PAGE REPORT SAYS OLIVEIRA WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 21 BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. REPORT STATES THAT WHILE PRIEST WAS CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY WITH FRIENDS IN A CAFE, ONE OF ESTABLISHMENT' S EMPLOYEES BROUGHT HIM MESSAGE THAT SOME FRIENDS OUTSIDE WANTED TO SEE HIM; WHEN HE WENT OUTSIDE, HE WAS FORCED INTO A CAR, WHICH THEREUPON TOOK OFF AT GREAT SPEED. REPORT STATES THAT THERE IS NO TRACE OF OLIVEIRA NOR ANY INDICATION OF WHO KIDNAPPED HIM.

4. LAWYER DA SILVA HAS TOLD AMCON OPORTO BOTH HE AND LIBERAL BISHOP OF OPORTO HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY ADVISED OLIVEIRA TO COOL HIS RHETORIC. (DA SILVA SEES OLIVEIRA AS SOMEWHAT UNSTABLE.) DA SILVA EXPECTS TO DEFEND OLIVEIRA AGAIN; FORSEES GOOD CHANCE OF ACQUITTAL.

5. COMMENT: SPECULATION ABOUT VIGILANTE- STYLE " KIDNAPPING" OF OLIVEIRA, ENGENDERED BY ERRONEOUS DIARIO DE LISBOA PIECE, WILL ONLY BE PUT TO REST WHEN OLIVEIRA RE- APPEARS OR CONVINCING PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF HIS WHEREABOUTS IS MADE. MEANWHILE, SPECTRE OF 1965 ABUCTION (AND PRESUMED MURDER) OF 1956 OPPOSITIONIST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HUMBERTO DELGADO WILL REMAIN.

6. IF, AS AMCON OPORTO HAS HEARD, CIRCUMSTANCES OF OLIVEIRA' S ARREST WERE IN FACT SIMILAR TO DIARIO DE LISBOA' S ACCOUNT, AFFAIR CONSTITUTES STEP BACKWARD TO SALAZAR- ERA SECRET ARRESTS, PROSCRIPTION OF WHICH REPRESENTED CAETANO' S MAJOR REFORM IN POLICE PRACTICES.

POST

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: EUR
LOURENCO MARQUES
LUANDA
MADRID
OPORTO
PONTA DELGADA
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